

# Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority

Winter/Spring 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## 11<sup>th</sup> Cycle Grants Awarded



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The mission of the WVCFA is to preserve the history and invest in the future of our county courthouses. How is that mission accomplished?

Daily all fifty-five county assessors, circuit clerks, county clerks, magistrates, and sheriffs' offices collect fees. A portion of certain fees collected have been designated by WV State Code to be deposited into the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund (CFIF).

For example, when the county clerk issues a marriage license, \$10 of the total fee is deposited at the state level into the CFIF. Another example would be when the Sheriff issues a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon. Fifteen dollars from the total fee collected from each person who obtains a license is deposited into the CFIF. The Legislature felt that by working together, we could accomplish more. They implemented a small fee structure, that individually considered, the

fees do not make a large impact, but by combining them together on a statewide level, we have accomplished great things!

Each year the fees are totaled and awarded by the CFIA Board of Directors in the form of grants. Our goal is that all fifty-five counties are applicants for grant funding. Unfortunately, all counties will not be funded, but if the county does not apply, then the opportunity is lost for that county until the next year.

This year, 48 counties applied for funding. The Authority was able to fund 24 of those projects. The total amount awarded was \$2,085,038. The maximum individual award per county was \$100,000.

For a complete listing of those counties receiving 11<sup>th</sup> Cycle Grant funding, please check our web-site at [www.cfia.wv.gov](http://www.cfia.wv.gov).

### Grant Coordinator Spotlight!

Cindy Wilson began working as Administrator for Gilmer County November 1, 2013. With no prior grant writing experience, she has successfully secured in excess of \$200,000 in her first year of employment. Also, during her first year, she managed grant funded projects totaling \$255,000. Just recently the WVCFA awarded Gilmer County \$84,000 to mitigate a water problem in the basement of the 90 year old Courthouse.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> Cycle, they received funding for a new roof on the Courthouse and funding for

sidewalks, steps and ADA access during the 5th Cycle.

Cindy is no stranger to managing projects since she purchased and rehabbed commercial rental property in Pennsylvania where she lived for 21 years. Born and raised in Gilmer County, she and her husband left the state after finishing college. In 2004, she returned home to Gilmer County to care for her aging parents. Her father has since passed away, but she still cares for her mom. She loves her job and loves serving the people of Gilmer County.



### CFIA Board Chairman

**Joseph M. Alongi,  
Hancock County  
Assessor, Nominated  
and Confirmed as  
Board Chairman on  
March 8, 2013**



### Grant Management:

**Quarterly Progress  
Reports should be  
Descriptive.**

**Reports are due on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of the  
Month following  
each quarter.**

**Reimbursement  
Requests can only  
be reimbursed at  
the 80% level.**

**The county can only  
apply for  
reimbursement  
three times during  
the life of each  
grant.**

### **Priorities for Low-Energy Courthouse and Annex Buildings – ZMM Architects & Engineers**

Whether you are retrofitting an existing courthouse or building a new courthouse annex or justice center, there are certain energy priorities that should be identified before beginning the design process. Not all buildings are the same, and different buildings use energy differently. If you are evaluating an existing building, a certified energy auditor can assess the building and develop a prioritized scope of work that will target the largest energy-using systems. Even though priorities may change between new and existing buildings, the following list of items should be considered:

- In a new facility limit the building's window-to-wall ratio (WWR) and increase window performance. A WWR of between 30-40% is desirable in combination with the best thermal performance (U-factor) you can afford.

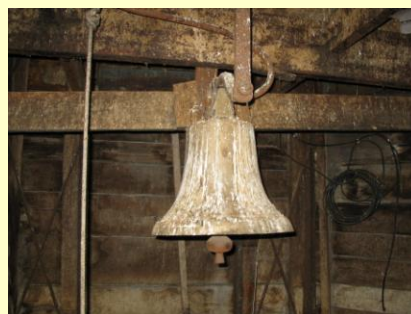
Increase the thermal performance (R-value) of the exterior walls and roof and increase air tightness. Start with minimum code-required values based on your climate zone and increase from there. Air-sealing all penetrations through the thermal envelope will eliminate unwanted air infiltration.

Reduce the lighting power density of the building and integrate occupancy and daylighting controls. Fixture and/or lamp replacement will increase the energy efficiency of your lighting and the controls will help turn the lights off when they are not needed.

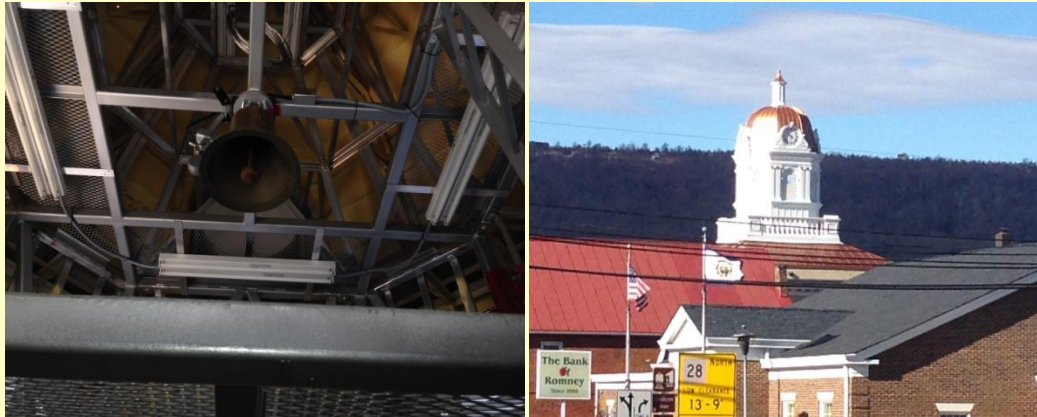
- Increase the energy efficiency of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment (HVAC). Also consider the fuel source and cost as well as the type of distribution throughout the building.

### **Hampshire County Refurbishes Cupola**

To maintain the historic integrity of the Hampshire County cupola, the Hampshire County Commission applied for and received CFIA funding to refurbish the glorious cupola that sits atop the courthouse in Romney, WV. Hampshire County was awarded \$106,200.00 to help them complete the project that totaled nearly \$300,000.



### **Hampshire County bell structure and cupola following rebuilding.**



## **West Virginia Archives and History Library**

### **West Virginia Courthouses**

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On February 4, 2014, Patti Hamilton, Executive Director of the West Virginia Association of Counties, moderated a presentation on “West Virginia Courthouses” at the Tuesday evening lecture in the Archives and History Library in the Culture Center in Charleston. Mike Gioulis, historic preservation consultant, Melissa Garretson Smith, Executive Director of the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority, and Debra Warmuth, co-owner of The Walkabout Company, LLC. were co-presenters.

The country's first civil rights case, the battles over county seats, famous architects, and even ghosts—all of these stories are part of West Virginia's 55 courthouses. The program began with a 15-minute excerpt from the award-winning movie, *Living Monuments—The West Virginia County Courthouse*. Because these beautiful buildings are steeped in history and are models of various styles of architecture, the presenters included a discussion of why it is important to rehabilitate a courthouse. While courthouses are architecturally significant and historically important, they also are an office environment for county officials and employees and a public place for citizens. There are funny stories, such as the alcohol-fueled fight in Marion County to get the county commission to build a new courthouse. There are serious stories, such as the John Brown trial in our state's oldest courthouse in Jefferson County. There are little-known treasures such as the stained glass skylight in the Barbour County courtroom. All of these and more underline the importance of preserving our living monuments while making sure that they are functional for the public well into the future.

Should you be interested in purchasing the movie or the book that includes information on all 55 courthouses, please call the WVACo at 346-0591.



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Melissa Garretson Smith,  
Executive Director

Joseph M. Alongi, Board  
Chairman

## Director's Brief

The Legislative session is entering its final weeks. It appears that this session will be dominated by the recent water crisis experienced in the Charleston and surrounding areas. Last year, we pursued legislation to provide our Authority with the ability to issue bonds. Therefore, allowing us to tackle a few larger projects, ones that counties will probably never be able to tackle on their own. The legislation passed the House and Senate unanimously. However, Governor Tomblin vetoed the bill. This was an unfortunate step back for our Authority. That was a goal that we had hoped to achieve to take our agency to the next level. Construction costs continue to escalate, however, our fees have stayed fairly consistent. This has resulted in smaller and fewer projects funded through the CFIA. While we may pursue this in the future, the Board chose to not pursue that legislation this year.

There are several pieces of legislation that have been introduced that could

potentially impact our Authority projects and/or construction projects counties fund entirely without our assistance. SB13 - introduced by Senator Stollings, has language that would allow CFIA funds to be used to refurbish a privately owned building that the county might move into following renovations. The main concern with that language is the possibility that the county not buy the property after the renovations are made. Then, public funds have been used to renovate a private citizen's building. We currently fund annex projects. Currently, the county is required to own the buildings for which they receive CFIA funding.

You may also want to check out HB 4357 and 2085. The legislative website is very user friendly: [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us).

Please do not hesitate to contact me concerning our grants. I'll be back in touch soon about 12<sup>th</sup> cycle funding deadlines.

-Melissa

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